

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-5, 10, 11, 19 and 23, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

Please amend Claim 18, to read as follows.

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) An image printing apparatus for processing data in which one word consists of eight bits, comprising:

printhead driving means for discharging ink from four contiguous nozzles of a printhead at different timings;

an editing buffer;

a print buffer for outputting image data to said printhead driving means;

and

a data transfer circuit for reading data from said editing buffer in units of 16-bit data and transferring the data to said print buffer,

wherein said data transfer circuit comprises:

a first register adapted to store 16-bit data currently read from said editing buffer;

a second register adapted to store 4-bit data of 16-bit data previously read from said editing buffer;

a control unit adapted to control the transfer to said print buffer of 12-bit data of 16-bit data stored in said first register and 4-bit data stored in said second register; and

an address generating unit adapted to generate an address for the data when said control unit transfers the data.

7. (Previously Presented) An image printing apparatus subjected to time-division drive, comprising:

an editing buffer and a print buffer for storing image data;

a printhead for performing printing based upon the image data read out of said print buffer; and

means for reading image data from two or more address regions within said editing buffer, which will be printed by driving said printhead one time, and packing the image data in numbers of bits serving as units in which data is read from and written to said editing buffer to store the packed image data in one address region within said print buffer, before the image data is transmitted to said printhead.

8. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling an image printing apparatus subjected to time-division drive and having an editing buffer and a print buffer for storing image data and a printhead for performing printing based upon the image data read out of said print buffer, said method comprising the steps of:

reading image data from two or more address regions within said editing buffer, which will be printed by driving said printhead one time; and

packing the image data in numbers of bits serving as units in which data is read from and written to said editing buffer to store the packed image data in one address region within said print buffer, before the image data is transmitted to said printhead.

9. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable memory storing a control program for controlling an image printing apparatus subjected to time-division drive and having an editing buffer and a print buffer for storing image data and a printhead for performing printing based upon the image data read out of said print buffer, said control program being a program for:

reading image data from two or more address regions within said editing buffer, which will be printed by driving said printhead one time; and

packing the image data in numbers of bits serving as units in which data is read from and written to said editing buffer to store the packed image data in one address region within said print buffer before the image data is transmitted to said printhead.

10-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising: An image printing apparatus, subjected to time-division drive of a printhead, comprising:~~

an editing buffer;

a print buffer;

a first register for storing a whole-number multiple of one word of data which is read from two or more address regions within said editing buffer; and

a second register for storing a set of data that corresponds to contiguous print elements, a number of which is a whole-number multiple of a number of time divisions employed in time-division drive,

wherein one word of data corresponding to a plurality of contiguous print elements provided on the printhead, that is stored divisionally in two or more address regions within said editing buffer, is rearranged in one address region within said print buffer.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A data processing method for processing data in an image printing apparatus subjected to time-division drive of a printhead and having a first storage means and a second storage means, comprising:

a horizontal-to-vertical conversion step of storing data in the first storage means in the horizontal direction and reading data from two or more address regions in the first storage means in the vertical direction;

a rearranging step of rearranging one word of data corresponding to a plurality of contiguous print elements provided on the printhead, which is included in data read from the first storage means in said horizontal-to-vertical conversion step, to store the one word of data in one address region within the second storage means; and

a transfer step of transferring the one word of data stored in the one address region within the second storage means to the printhead so as to drive the print elements according to the one word of data.

21. (Previously Presented) A transfer circuit of an image processing apparatus for transferring data from an editing unit to a print unit, said transfer circuit comprising:

a first register adapted to store 16-bit data;

a second register adapted to store 4-bit data;

a control unit adapted to control the transfer of data from said first register and from said second register to the print unit; and

an address generating unit adapted to generate an address for the data when said control unit transfers the data.

22. (Previously Presented) A method of transferring data in an image processing apparatus from an editing unit to a print unit, said method comprising the following steps:

storing 16-bit data in a first register;

storing 4-bit data in a second register;

controlling the transfer of data from the first register and from the second register to the print unit; and

generating an address for the data when the data is transferred in said controlling step,

wherein the address includes a transfer-origin identifier and transfer-destination identifier.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) A transfer circuit of an image processing apparatus for transferring data from an editing unit to a print unit, said transfer circuit comprising:

a conversion register adapted to store data having vertical components;

a selector adapted to extract the vertical-component data from said conversion register;

a register adapted to store data;

a control unit adapted to control said selector and the transfer of data from said register to the print unit; and

an address generating unit adapted to generate an address for the data when said control unit transfers the data.

25. (Previously Presented) The transfer circuit according to claim 21, wherein said first register stores data which is read currently from said editing unit, and said second register stores 4-bit data of 16-bit data which was read previously from said editing unit.